

• Freeing Najaf • Real-World Trauma Training

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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Soldiers

Stryker Update





Cover Story — Page 4

A Stryker mortar carrier leaves a C-130 that has just landed at Bicycle Lake Army Airfield at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.
— SFC Gary Ogilvie

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A GUNSHOT wound to the chest, a knife wound to the abdomen, blunt-force trauma to the head — a typical workload for an Army surgeon in a combat zone. Except this isn't Afghanistan or Iraq, it's Miami. In "Real-World Trauma Training," SSG Alberto Betancourt takes you on a journey to the Army Trauma Training Center at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. There, Army physicians, nurses and medics receive world-class training in treating patients with many of the same injuries as battlefield casualties.

Of course, a soldier's best chance of survival is not to become a casualty in the first place. In "Defusing Danger," Beth Reece takes a look at training for the ultimate zero-defects job — explosive ordnance technician. Join Beth at the School of

Explosive Ordnance Disposal to see how soldiers are trained to succeed in this specialty of no second chances.

And If you think learning to safely dispose of unexploded ordnance is stressful, try doing it in a combat zone. To see explosive ordnance technicians in action, don't miss "EOD in Iraq" by PFC Joshua Hutcheson, and "EOD in Afghanistan" by CPL Keith D. Kluwe.

Happy Independence Day.

John E. Suttle
John E. Suttle



Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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Great Civilian Poster!

JUST a quick note to say thanks for your informative magazine. As a field recruiter in a rural area, sometimes a photo or article of soldiers in action speaks to potential recruits more effectively than all the recruiters in my office. I did, however, miss the April issue because our local USAR unit was being deployed.

I'd heard that the issue contained a "Civilian Workforce" poster, and finally acquired one and posted it outside my office. I have been receiving many positive comments from retirees, teachers, law enforcement officers and others in the community. I was wondering if you can spare a few for my office to pass out? We would greatly appreciate it.

SFC John Originales
Dodge City, Kan.

I AM writing on behalf of COL Victoria Post, director of the Community Activities and Services Business Center at Fort Bragg, N.C.

We received copies of the "Civilian Workforce" poster and are very impressed. We would like to frame and hang the poster in our facilities. We have a very large civilian workforce and feel this poster is great for morale.

Would it be possible to receive additional posters (rolled not folded) that will be suitable for framing?

Kimberly Ford
via e-mail

Casualties, Not Combat

YOUR May 2003 issue has an error on page 25. It refers to World War II as ending in 1946, when it actually ended in September 1945.

1LT Frank M. Campana
via e-mail

THE 1946 date actually refers not to the end of hostilities, but the end to the recording period for World War II combat casualties. Soldiers wounded in action or injured in accidents be-

fore September 1945 who died at any time through the end of 1946 were counted as casualties of that war.

AFTER reading "A Time to Honor, A Time to Remember" in the May issue, I noticed a glaring error — the failure to list Operation Enduring Freedom. Not once in this article is the Afghanistan conflict mentioned. Many service members gave their lives in this ongoing operation and their ultimate sacrifice should be acknowledged.

Maj. William McGarrity
Maxwell AFB, Ala.

CASUALTY figures for Operation Enduring Freedom were not listed because at the time the article went to press no official figures had been released by the Department of Defense. Though we mentioned that Operation Iraqi Freedom figures were not listed for the same reason, we neglected to expand that explanation to cover OEF. We regret that omission.

Flipped Foto

I AM writing in reference to the May issue. The picture on page 14, in the article "With Care and Respect," was printed backwards. It seems that the negative was flipped before the print was made.

SPC Melissa Bennett
Fort Rucker, Ala.

More on SDAP

THIS is in response to the "Why SDAP?" article in the March edition. Hopefully this will answer the reader's question about why career counselors get SDAP.

SDAP is paid to "an enlisted member who is entitled to basic pay and is performing duties which have been designated by the secretary concerned as extremely difficult or involving an unusual degree of responsibility in a military skill."

Career counselors are charged with interpretation of applicable policies, potential violations of Federal statutes and actions with direct and long range monetary impact on morale, readiness and command integrity.

Department of the Army standards require career counselors to not only be subjected to the close scrutiny of their personal lives but also to be held to a standard higher than other NCOs. Career counselors are governed by unique relief tables (IAW AR 601-280) that other NCOs simply are not subject to.

As the commander's personal and principle advisor on the legality and impact of retention policies, the career counselor is faced with responsibilities outweighing those of a soldier of comparable rank. Their actions have the potential to place a commander in direct violation of federal law or DA/DOD policy.

The career counselor's MOS knowledge is also of paramount importance. Failure to accurately compute or misinterpretation of eligibility have far-reaching monetary and emotional impacts that not only hurt the individual but may also cost the government, since the career counselor is the Army's agent in binding contractual litigation with the soldier.

Career counselor duties clearly meet the "unusual degree of responsibility" requirement for SDAP entitlement.

MSG K. LEON
via e-mail



For links to the Army News Service and Soldiers Radio Live, visit www.army.mil

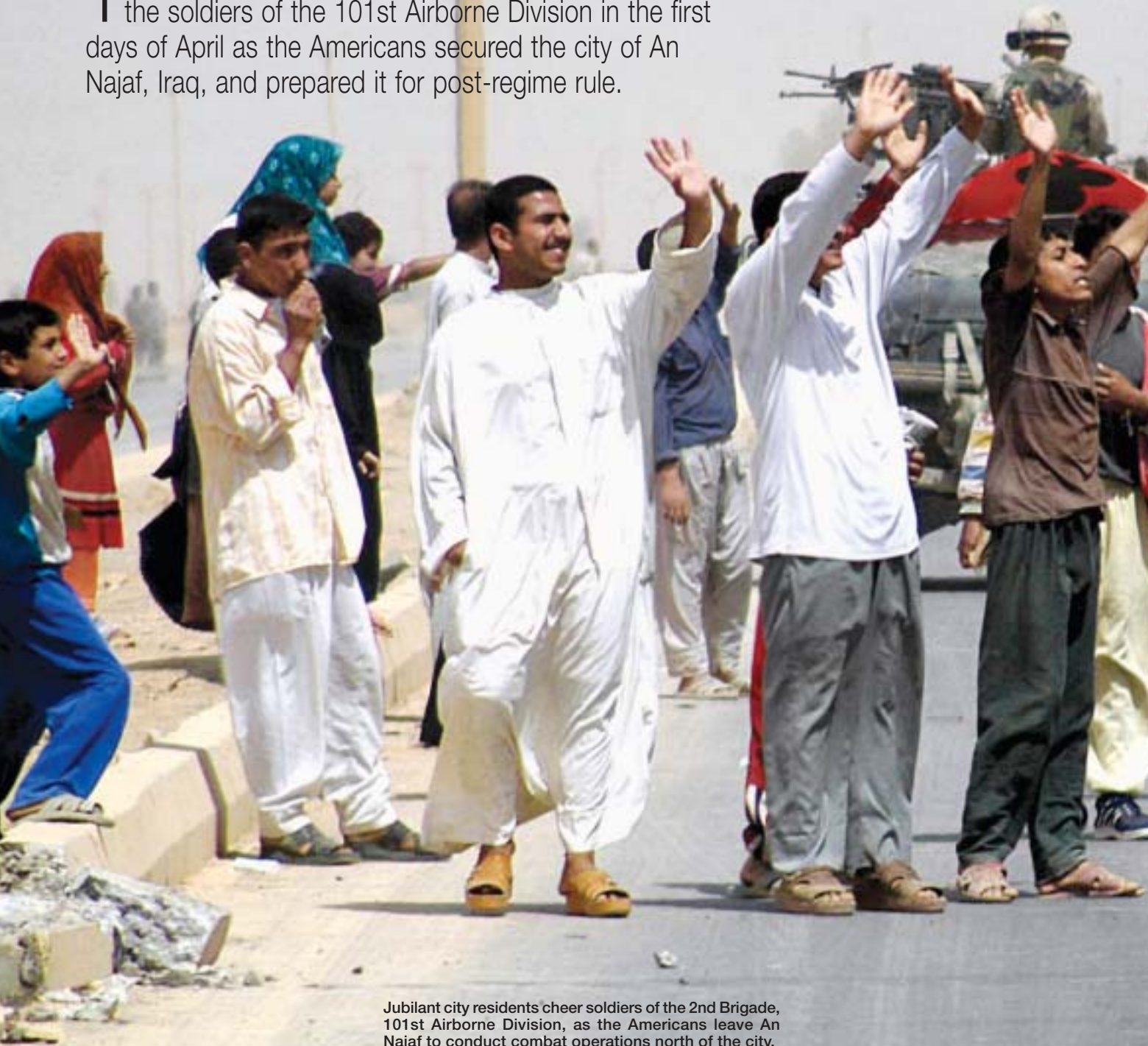


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Freeing Najaf

Story by PFC James Matise

THE smiles and cheers of liberated Iraqis greeted the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division in the first days of April as the Americans secured the city of An Najaf, Iraq, and prepared it for post-regime rule.



Jubilant city residents cheer soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, as the Americans leave An Najaf to conduct combat operations north of the city.



“FROM the Iraqi people to the soldiers of freedom and peace, we wish you every happiness,” read the inscription on an autographed Arabic-language Bible that one Iraqi presented to PFC Eric Tanner, a paralegal assigned to Headquarters and Hqs. Company of the division’s 1st Brigade.

“I was pulling security on a convoy, and this man came up to me and gave me the Bible. He spoke really good English,” Tanner

PFC James Matise is assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, currently in Iraq.

said. “We talked for about two hours. He didn’t want anything from us, he just wanted to talk and say ‘thank you.’”

Their discussion ranged from family to the similarities of Christianity and Islam, to visions of an Iraq free of Ba’ath Party tyranny.

As Saddam Hussein’s regime crumbled before the coalition forces’ attack, the local people were quick to show their gratitude to the soldiers who’d freed them, Tanner said.

“It was an outstanding reception,” said PFC Frank Chelkonas, another 101st Abn. Div. soldier. “We’ve gotten to talk to people who barely understand English, and they



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Soldiers inspected abandoned houses suspected of containing information on the regime's uniforms, discarded bottles of antibiotics and a copy of a Ba'ath Party membership

accept us with open arms. They're looking for a change, and they're going to get it."

The enemy forces within Najaf were under intense bombing and shelling for about four days, Chelkonas said, and quickly surrendered when U.S. forces assaulted the town.

"Since then, we've been sending out patrols every morning and assisting special forces soldiers in seizing munitions," Chelkonas said. "I expected some pretty fierce resistance, but we encountered almost none."

Najaf has long been considered an important coalition objective, with both strategic and political value. It is a key crossing point over the Euphrates River, and is considered a holy city by the nation's Shiite Muslim majority. Winning the support of Iraq's Shiites was important to defeating the Iraqi army and ensuring the future

stability of post-Saddam Iraq, Chelkonas said. So far, winning the hearts and minds of the people seems likely, especially considering the city's former military presence.

On April 3, in a public move to declare the city's liberation, the division blew up a 30-foot-tall statue of Saddam Hussein. For days, as the wreckage of the statue lay broken around its prominent base, Iraqis drove by and honked their horns at the soldiers.

"Good, good, good," one man yelled from his vehicle as he passed the broken statue.

"The people asked us if we'd freed them, and if we're their saviors," SGT Lujan Williams said. "They're really nice people. They thanked us every day."

The citizens of Najaf initially found themselves without running water or power, because both had

been knocked out during the fighting, but the locals were able to repair both utilities within days of the city's liberation. Meantime, the U.S. soldiers secured the area to ensure the people remained safe while they collected water.

"Initially, we helped distribute water, but now the operation runs smoothly without our help," said MAJ Brian Winski, executive officer for the 1st Bn., 237th Inf. "Water and food don't seem to be a huge issue. Our main concern is getting the power and civil infrastructure up — to get basic health and human services in place."

Though the Ba'ath Party militants had lost control of the city, they'd left behind weapons and other materials that had to be removed before local authorities could assume control.

Soldiers inspected abandoned houses suspected of containing information on the regime's clandestine



4

5

clandestine chemical and biological weapons programs. They found X-rays, documents, card. They also found stockpiled sacks of rice — in a city full of starving people.

tine chemical and biological weapons programs. They found X-rays, documents, uniforms, discarded bottles of antibiotics and a copy of a Ba'ath Party membership card. They also found stockpiled sacks of rice — in a city full of starving people.

COL Frederick B. Hodges, the 1st Bde. commander, told his troops to take the sacks of rice and whatever utensils they could find out to the streets for the people. "We'll call it the first phase of humanitarian assistance," Hodges said.

Soldiers also inspected an abandoned technical university that had been seized by 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. Inside each building were dozens of metalworking machines and components for more than 1,000 antipersonnel land mines. Drawn on a blackboard was a blueprint for their assembly.

Days after U.S. forces took the city, residents returned to work. Traffic

began to flow and buses operated. Residents took their livestock to market, and shopkeepers opened their stores. The skeletons of destroyed vehicles were cleared away, and the images of Saddam Hussein began to come down.

Military legal teams surveyed the areas captured by coalition forces and began processing damage claims. Where possible, local contractors will be hired to repair damages and the claims will be settled with money captured from the Ba'ath Party, Tanner said.

As commerce flowed again and the people began to lift themselves out of a regime-induced poverty, there was a marked difference of opinion of the western world between now and what had been portrayed under Saddam's oppressive propaganda machine, Tanner said. "America?" some of the Iraqis said. "We love America." 🇺🇸

1 A soldier from the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion helps deliver a bag of rice in a village near the city. The rice was provided by an international relief agency through the Army.

2 As smoke billows from a building demolished by U.S. forces, residents feel secure enough to begin taking to the streets again.

3 On April 7 more than 3,000 rifles, including hundreds of AK-47s, were discovered and rounded up by the 101st's 1st Brigade. The weapons were later destroyed by a bulldozer and left as rubble.

4 One week after liberating the city, soldiers of 1st Brigade search a house suspected of containing evidence of the Ba'ath Party regime's chemical and biological programs.

5 CPT Ryan Morgan, the commander of the 101st's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, holds a rocket-propelled grenade found with nearly 4,000 pounds of munitions. The division found tons of enemy weapons and destroyed them.





Marianas Islands

Sweat beads from the heat and humidity cover PFC Joshua McComas' camouflaged face. The 25th Infantry Division soldier from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 27th Inf. Regiment, was on Tinian Island participating in Tandem Thrust 2003, a joint exercise conducted in the Marianas Islands.

— Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Bill Kimble,
USAF



◀ Kosovo

SGT Heather Shelley, a sling-load operator with the 201st Logistics Task Force, marshals a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter sling-loading a Humvee during the Kosovo Forces Inter-Operability Exercise at Camp Bondsteel. The exercise familiarizes the participating nations with sling-load capabilities in the Kosovo area of operations.

— Photo by SPC Ryan C. Creel





▲ Afghanistan

82nd Airborne Div. soldiers arrive at a landing zone near the Afghanistan town of Khar Bolaq to conduct Operation Crackdown. The soldiers' mission is to find and destroy weapons that could be used against coalition forces supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

— Photo by SPC Jerry T. Combes


◀ Marianas Islands

Soldiers from the 25th Inf. Div. load onto a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter en route to Tinian Island to participate in Tandem Thrust 2003 in the Marianas.

— Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Bill Kimble, USAF



Real-World Tr



Miami's bright lights — and other attractions — draw millions of visitors each year. But for Army surgeons, nurses and medics, the city's main attraction is the real-world training offered by one of the nation's busiest trauma centers.

trauma Training

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt



(Above) MAJ Edgar Chauvin (at left), commander of the 936th FST, and Ryder Trauma Center staff members wait for an incoming patient near the facility's heliport. When the civilian medevac helicopter arrives (right) the patient is whisked away for treatment.

Real-World Trauma Training

WITH its turquoise waters, balmy temperatures and sizzling nightlife, Miami attracts millions of visitors annually. However, not all are there to enjoy the city.

Army surgeons, nurses and medics who have been coming to the Florida city since January 2002 seldom find time to enjoy Miami's neon lights or its warm Atlantic Ocean swells. Instead, these members of forward surgical teams have helped save hundreds of lives while honing their skills at the Army Trauma Training Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center.

"This program exists because we want to provide great

surgical care on the battlefield," said COL Tom Knuth, the director of the Army's training program. "We want our commanders to know that their soldiers will get the same level of quality care on the battlefield they can get at any urban trauma center."

As the only level-one trauma center in Miami-Dade County, the Ryder Trauma Center can treat any type of trauma victim. This allows soldiers to work shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the world's most experienced medical personnel.

"Ryder's medical personnel treat traumas every day," said Knuth. "Some of them have more than 20 years of

"We want our commanders to know that their soldiers will get the same level of quality care on the battlefield they can get at any urban trauma center."

experience. Most of the Army surgeons deal with a healthy population and never see trauma. This training raises our medical team's level of confidence and improves its abilities to deal with combat wounds."

Nearing the end of their 10-day training cycle, MAJ Edgar Chauvin and members of his 936th FST were wearing scrubs and looking tired after running the trauma center the past 24 hours. They were more than ready for some well-earned rest. Yet any rest would be temporary, since the Paducah, Ky.-based Reservists had been activated for duty in Southwest Asia.

"I'm confident that now that we've completed this training, my team can be mobilized anywhere in the world and complete its mission," said Chauvin. "We came here and recognized our weaknesses, worked on those weaknesses and eventually ran the Ryder Trauma Center."

Unlike soldiers assigned to active-duty FSTs, Reserve team members don't all work in the medical field.

For example, SGT Charles Fowler, a licensed practical

► The 936th's CPT Dean Canestrini prepares for the arrival of an incoming patient. Soldiers training at Ryder work with some of the nation's most experienced trauma specialists.

▼ Members of the 936th work on a patient suffering from an open fracture. As the only level-one trauma center in Miami-Dade County, Ryder receives patients with injuries of all conceivable types.



nurse with the 936th FST, is an industrial piping valve salesman when not drilling with the unit.

"My civilian job has nothing to do with my military job," said Fowler. "Over time, I've lost confidence in my skills. But the training at this trauma center reintroduced me to the clinical environment and honed those skills."

Fowler said he and his team worked on a variety of trauma patients, including victims of burns, stabbings, gunshots and motor-vehicle accidents.

"The training was very tough," he said. "It was the first time I've dealt with these kinds of patients. But it is by far the best medical training I've ever received."

Keeping the soldiers engaged and helping them work better as a team is the core of the training program.

"For the FSTs, it's a great benefit to have a concentrated educational experience with a high number of trauma patients," said Dr. Stephen Cohn, medical director for the Ryder Trauma Center. "We've created a program to help the teams work better together and help each individual team

member improve his or her skill."

Cohn, a former Army Reserve medical officer, said the training initially lasted four weeks and graduated 16 active-duty FSTs. He said the Army's higher operational tempo around the world led to the shorter, 10-day training period.

"This is like a trauma obstacle course, where we can see where the teams' communications break down and what skills need to be worked on," said Cohn. "We improve their skills, and when they go back to their home units they continue honing those skills."

A permanent Army cadre consisting of Knuth and seven other soldiers is responsible for training the many teams rotating through the trauma center.

"Although we're trainers and mentors, the trauma center also serves as an incredible educational platform that also helps develop our medical skills," said SSG Rigoberto Alcala, a licensed practical nurse and the only enlisted member of the Miami cadre.

"Training here is a tremendous experience for both the



▲ PFCs Tyana Nedd and Ricardo Jean-Baptiste, both medics with the 1st FST from Fort Totten, N.Y., emplace an ambulatory bag to help a stabbing victim breathe.

➤ After running the Ryder Trauma Center for more than 24 hours, members of the 936th FST take a moment for an impromptu after-action review.



FSTs and the permanent cadre,” he said. “I don’t think a soldier in the medical field can receive training like this anywhere in the world.”

As the 936th FST prepared to return to home station, from where it was to deploy to Southwest Asia, the 1st FST from Fort Totten, N.Y., was beginning its 10-day cycle.

Several days into the training, CPT Leonard Pollock, a triage nurse, said he had never gone through training as intense as the kind he was encountering at Miami’s Army Trauma Training Center.

“The hands-on ability to work on human beings is immeasurable,” said Pollock. “We’re learning everything we need to learn to help our fellow soldiers survive if wounded in combat.”

At the end of its 10-day training cycle, the 1st FST was also activated and deployed to Southwest Asia. 🇺🇸

▶ As Ryder’s Sylvia Hernandez performs a cardiogram, 1st FST PFCs Tyana Nedd and Ricardo Jean-Baptiste monitor the condition of the elderly patient.



Stryker Upod

Story by SSG Rhonda M. Lawson

Photos by SSG Rhonda M. Lawson and SPC Alfredo Jimenez Jr.

Engineers Get Their Own

IT'S not unusual to see an engineer element accompany an infantry element on a mission. It's evident in the mountains of Afghanistan, for example, where engineers clear land mines and destroy weapons caches.

Now, the 18th Engineer Company of the Fort Lewis, Wash.-based 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, is working to improve the engineers' ability to support the infantry mission. The first step toward that objective was for the engineers to trade in their old tactical vehicles for new Stryker engineer squad vehicles.

"This has made it so much easier to keep up with the infantry," said 1LT Christopher Evans, an 18th Engr. Co. platoon leader. "This puts us right in the fight. Without the ESV the brigade wouldn't be able to use us."

Evans said that the ESV, one of eight proposed Stryker variants, has the same power as the Stryker infantry carrier vehicle, making it easier for engineers to negotiate rough terrain. The unit's older vehicle made keeping up with the infantry a challenge.

"That hindered the mission," said SSG Clifford Beattie, a 3rd Bde. rifle-squad leader. "They couldn't see through the dust. But now, they can negotiate the same terrain we can."

Aside from power, the ESV shares other similarities with its Stryker brethren. Like other

SSG Rhonda M. Lawson and SPC Alfredo Jimenez Jr. are assigned to the 28th Public Affairs Detachment at Fort Lewis, Wash.



ate

▶ SPC Tim Walterscheid, a gunner with the 18th Engineer Company, checks the Remote Weapons Station screen in the Engineer Squad Vehicle. The 18th Engr. Co. is the first engineer unit in the Army to use the ESV.

▶ A Stryker ESV with attached mine plow breaches an area cleared with the Mine Clearing Line Charge.



Strykers, it's equipped with two Javelin missiles and a .50-caliber remote weapon station that allows the gunner to fire from inside the vehicle. It also comes equipped with a video camera, allowing the driver to see what's going on outside the vehicle. Additionally, the squad leader has a touch-screen display that allows him to see what both the gunner and driver see.


"I think this was built by a driver, for a driver," said SPC Tim Walterscheid, a gunner with 2nd Platoon. "Three people can essentially do a mission."

The ESV also makes it easier to fire the unit's main tool, the Mine Clearing Line Charge. This device contains nearly 2,000 pounds of C4 explosive, which is shot out 100 yards ahead of the vehicle to clear a

14-meter-wide area of mines. Once the MCLC is fired, an ESV with an attached mine plow goes through the area, making sure all mines are cleared. Soldiers follow, placing lane markers to identify cleared routes so the ICVs can pass safely.

The 18th Eng. Co., along with the rest of 3rd Bde., trained at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in preparation for the brigade's certification exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. The NTC training marked the first time the entire brigade deployed for a field training exercise. While this may seem like a large demand for a company that only received its Strykers six weeks before arriving at NTC, Evans said his unit has handled the pressure well.

"It actually increases the excite-

ment, because the guys got to use the tools they've only been told about," he said. "We've trained continuously for 20 days." Learning the system was a lot like driving a car. "There are a lot more buttons," he said. "But the instructors were good, and they were patient about explaining how the buttons worked. They took the time to make sure the gunner knew the procedure." 

► (Right) A Mine Clearing Line Charge is launched from the rear of a Stryker ESV in the "Box" at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The detonation of the charges causes buried mines to explode.

► (Far right) A cloud of smoke billows from the impact point of the MCLC. The detonation of the line charge causes buried mines to explode, thus creating a clear lane for vehicles and personnel to pass through.



The 29th Signal Battalion set up antennas throughout its perimeter at the National Training Center. The battalion is part of a new digital bridge concept developed in conjunction with the Stryker Brigade Combat Team.



Bridging The Gap Story by SPC Alfredo Jimenez

THE first-ever Stryker Brigade Combat Team — Fort Lewis's 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division — prides itself on being rapidly deployable.

So it's fitting that the battlefield information the unit receives should arrive just as fast. Through a system called the "digital bridge," information travels via satellites, rather than by the usual line-of-sight radios. With this system, vital information and pictures can be transmitted to units on the ground from anywhere in the world, in real time.

"Designed about a year ago, the digital bridge complements the SBCT's extensive computer system and allows the SBCT to connect to other computer systems," said MAJ Brian Edholm, digital bridge executive officer.

"The digital bridge allows the 3rd Bde. to see a real-time picture of the battlefield. And the system is evolving, because the SBCT is still in a testing phase," said CW2 Ronald Carrasquillo, 29th Signal Battalion

network manager.

The system has several central nodes that transmit information into the main hub. The hub, in turn, transmits information digitally to the commanders on the battlefield and to the tactical-operations center.

The bridge gives planners a few advantages, including tracking the movement of both friendly and enemy forces, and allowing that information to be transmitted between the commands very quickly.

"This SBCT exercise allows us to test our mobility," said SGT Luis Robles, node center chief. It also marked the first time the digital bridge tested several pieces of computer equipment at the same time.

"Before, we've been able to test only one item at a time," Edholm added.

The soldiers involved with the digital bridge are very excited about their role in the first-ever SBCT exercise, Edholm said. "They're always training and have been waiting to put their training to the test." 🇺🇸



SGT Gregory Symins of the 29th Sig. Bn. speaks to another unit using a satellite communications terminal that is part of the new digital bridge technology.



MAJ Chuck Hodges (at left) looks at his video terminal display as a soldier computes incoming information.

From **TOC** to Stryker Command Vehicle

Story by SPC Alfredo Jimenez Jr.

MEDICS are driving a bigger, faster vehicle. Engineers are able to shoot mine-clearing line charges to detonate mine fields. And the infantry can fit 11 soldiers into a vehicle that travels 60 mph.

So it's no wonder the command vehicle for the SBCT provides capabilities never before available in the Army, said MAJ Chuck Hodges, an operations officer for the SBCT at Fort Lewis, Wash.

"It's a nice asset," said vehicle commander SGT Jimmy Rogers. "It bridges the gap between heavy mechanized forces and the light infantry."

The commander's vehicle can track just about anything on the battlefield with its video display terminal, Rogers said. Red icons appear on the screen when the enemy is nearby, and an automated voice also alerts the commander of danger.

Blue icons depict friendly forces,

which the operations officer can see. He can identify the units by clicking on their icons with a hand-held pointer.

The command variant of the Stryker allows the commander to control events away from the tactical operations center, Hodges said.

And while the CV can carry 36,133 pounds of equipment, it's not reduced to a snail's pace during battle. In tests, it traveled 150 feet in 9 seconds, and can reach speeds up to 60 mph.

"It's quick, agile and quiet," Rogers said. "This thing operates even better on urban terrain and can go places a tank can't."

"Compared to the vehicle I drove when I was stationed in Germany, this vehicle can cross mountainous terrain very easily," added CV driver SPC Mario Marcelle.

In addition, a .50-caliber machine gun is mounted on the CV's top, and a grenade launcher can be added as well.

"It's a great vehicle," Marcelle said. "Even though I'm still training with it, I know it's the best thing in the Army." 🇺🇸

The commander's vehicle — one of eight Stryker variants — allows the commander to control events away from the tactical operations center.





1st Cavalry Division



X Corps



IX Corps



45th Infantry Division (NG)



40th Infantry Division (NG)



25th Infantry Division



KOREA

KOREA, a rugged, mountainous peninsula, forced American soldiers to battle nature as well as the enemy. The steamy summer exhausted troops, while monsoon rains pounded their ponchos and sub-zero winds whipped through winter clothing. GIs of all job specialties ducked bullets and froze their feet in the line of duty, while nurses in the new mobile Army surgical hospitals faithfully tended the wounded.

Overshadowed by the Allied victory in World War II, the Korean War hasn't been well remembered.

Tested by both communist attacks and Asian weather, the soldiers in that conflict paid a high price in service and sacrifice. Our nation must never forget their sobering lesson. Despite technological advances, the future will again, no doubt, send our soldiers into the mud, to take and hold the high ground.

SEOUL



Pusan



Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine
www.soldiersmagazine.com

Courtesy of the staff and collections of the
National Museum of the United States Army,
U.S. Army Center of Military History.

SOLDIERS

EQUIPPING KOREA-BOUND GIs IN 1950-53

The years just after World War II were a time of transition for U.S. military uniforms. The 1946 Doolittle Board wanted the same uniforms for officers and enlisted soldiers, and the 1948 Uniform Board wanted separate garrison and field uniforms. Budgets slowed change, mixing old with new. This meant cotton khaki for summer and interim use of the earlier olive drab (OD) wool field jacket and trousers as winter garrison wear, until the present Army green arrived. Showing these changes are original historical items of the Korean War.

Headgear

A wool, taupe hat gave women a new snappy brim. Enlisted men wore summer cotton khaki or a wool winter garrison cap with branch-colored braid.

Insignia

The right-shoulder "combat patch" returned and overseas "Hershey" bars moved to the right sleeve. Green-felt combat leaders identification and infantry sky-blue distinctions were added in 1951 and 1952, respectively.

Chevrons

The 1948 career plan created the Army's current pay grades and led to changes in chevrons. Small gold and blue combat and noncombat insignia eliminated the three-stripe sergeant and added a "rocker," but the World War II large OD and blue chevrons returned in 1951.

Accessories

In 1948 the necktie changed from World War II khaki to OD. Enlisted men received the cotton poplin shirt in place of the heavier twill for wear with their tailored wool jackets.

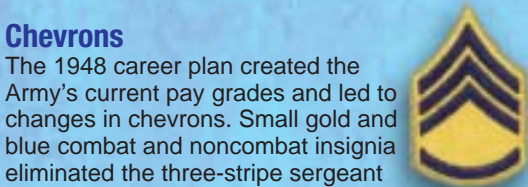
Service Footgear

Boots replaced low-quarter shoes. Common were the 1943 leather combat service boots with buckled cuff. Also popular was the 1948-pattern, full-lace russet combat boot with a cap toe and grain leather.



Awards

Authorized in order of precedence were the National Defense Service Medal (1953) for Cold War service, with the Korean Service Medal (1950) and the United Nations Medal (1951) in U.N. blue and white.



ROTATEE GOING HOME (1953)

Personnel on rotation or rest and recreation wore seasonal Class A uniforms. In Japan, enlisted men turned in field clothing and received summer or winter khaki cotton uniforms, M-1950 garrison caps, jackets (without cuffs) and wool trousers, and khaki poplin shirts and OD neckties to wear with their combat service boots.

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IN KOREA



Field Clothing

for American military women in Korea, mostly Army nurses, had to be practical. Their uniforms resembled male uniforms, but were tailored for female figures. There were cotton herringbone twill fatigues in summer, and the OD cotton jacket and slacks for winter wear.

Weapons

— rifles, carbines or pistols — indicated soldier military specialties. Mostly carried by officers, NCOs and support personnel, the M-2 carbine with post-1941 modifications for automatic fire used a 30-round magazine and M-4 knife-bayonet in M-8 scabbard.

Rifle Bag

Carrying strap held a clothing and equipment to Korea and back. Adopted in World War II by the Marine Corps, it featured an arched closure and a carrying band.



Steel Helmet

Adopted in 1941, the helmet gave only fragment protection. It featured a plastic liner fitted into a removable shell and a web chinstrap with a breakaway release.

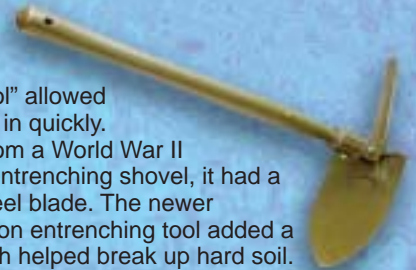


Tent

Each soldier carried a shelter half. Two shelter halves formed a pup tent. The horseshoe roll held a blanket, three tent-pole sections and five wooden or aluminum tent pins.

Tools

The “e-tool” allowed GIs to dig in quickly. Copied from a World War II German entrenching shovel, it had a folding steel blade. The newer combination entrenching tool added a pick, which helped break up hard soil.



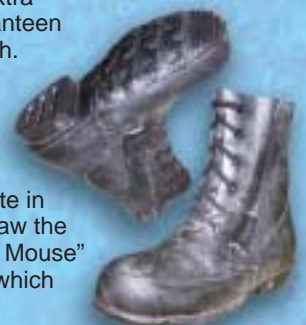
Sleeping Bags

replaced earlier heavy OD wool blankets. The wool bag was “mummy-style” laced into a cotton case. The M-1949 mountain bag was filled with insulating goose down.



Web Equipment

carried combat and bivouac soldier loads. Based on a Marine Corps system, the M-1945 combat field pack (carrying underwear, toilet articles, mess kit, poncho) joined to the M-1945 field cargo pack (extra clothing) and belt with canteen and first-aid packet pouch.



Winter Footgear

The old wet-cold M-1944 shoe pack, with rubber foot and leather upper, proved inadequate in Korea. The 1951-1952 winter saw the introduction of the new “Mickey Mouse” rubber-insulated combat boot, which was often too warm.

REPLACEMENT GOING TO WAR (1952)

Soldiers arriving in the Korean theater of operations received seasonal field clothing and equipment, which included summer cotton, OD herringbone twill fatigues or a winter ensemble such as the M-1943 field jacket and trousers, in OD cotton, worn over wool layers, with pile cap, parka-style overcoat and M-1944 shoe packs.

FAR EAST TOUR 1950-53

By Walter H. Bradford



I Corps



Eighth U.S. Army

JAPAN

TODAY'S soldiers fighting overseas against the nation's enemies and to safeguard democracy do so in the spirit of a generation that served 50 years ago.

When the North Korean army invaded South Korea in 1950, the United Nations responded. President Harry S. Truman called upon Americans to once again become soldiers. Even the "push-button" warfare of that day required GIs on the ground to force the 1953 truce that remains in effect today.

The pipeline to our forces in Korea was the crossroads of Japan. U.S. occupation forces, present since the 1945 end of World War II, sent combat troops. At the same time, reinforcements and support personnel — including members of the Women's Army Corps — arrived from the United States in great numbers. New arrivals in-process in Japan as others enjoyed rest and relaxation leave, or prepared to rotate home after completing their tours of duty.



2nd Infantry Division

TOKYO

Yokohama

24th Infantry Division



YOUR PROCESSING AT CAMP DRAKE
MILITARY RECEIVING POINT COMPANY AREA PERL AFFAIRS BLDG



3rd Infantry Division



7th Infantry Division



Be a part of your magazine

Send Your Photos to Soldiers

Soldiers is already planning the 2004 almanac and once again needs your help.

A large part of each almanac is "This Is Our Army," a photo feature that tells the Army story at the local level.

If you have candid photos of the Army family at work or play, send them in NOW. **The only restriction is that your photos should be taken between Aug. 19, 2002, and Aug. 18, 2003, and be sent to us by Sept. 1.**

Soldiers prefers color prints or slides. **We do not need fancy 8x10 prints** — regular 4x6 prints will do. We also accept digital images, but they must be very high resolution. If your images can fit onto a floppy disk, they are too small. Please do not send prints made from digital images. Also, please **DO NOT** e-mail photo submissions.

To enter, complete a copy of the form below and attach it to each photo you send. **Photos without complete caption information will not be considered.** Photos and accompanying information cannot be returned.

If you have questions, contact our photo editor by phone at (703) 806-4504 or (DSN) 656-4504, or via e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

Mail your entries to: **Soldiers; ATTN: Photo Editor; 9325 Gunston Rd., Suite S-108; Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.**

"Writing and Shooting for Soldiers Magazine" and the Soldiers Style Guide are both available at www.soldiersmagazine.com.

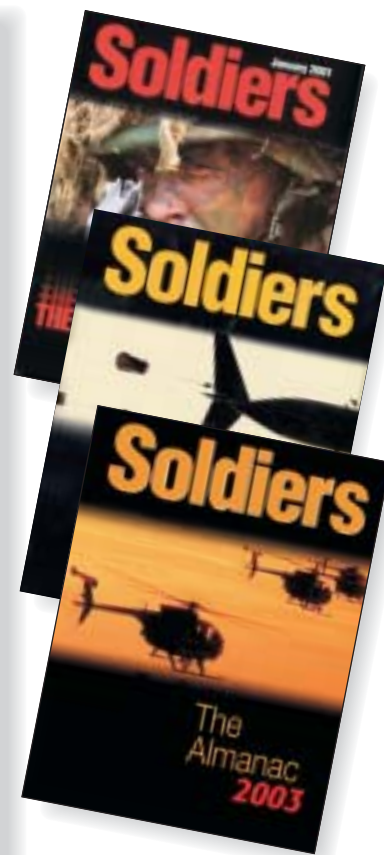
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Tips for Photo Success

MORE than half the photos we receive each year never make it to the final selection process, mostly for avoidable reasons. Follow these simple tips to be sure your photos have the best chance of being selected.

1. Complete the accompanying entry form and carefully attach it to the back of each photo you send, or provide a way of linking it to each image.
2. Make sure your package is postmarked by the Sept. 1, 2003 deadline.
3. Send only photos taken between Aug. 19, 2002, and Aug. 18, 2003.
4. Check closely to be sure your photos don't show obvious uniform or safety violations.
5. Identify people in each photo by full name, rank and correct unit designation; and provide a means of contacting you if we have any questions about the information you've sent.
6. Don't send snapshots of people staring into the camera. Candid photos are usually better.
7. Send only quality images: No Polaroids; no out-of-focus, discolored or torn images; and no prints from digital images.
8. Don't write on the back of your prints, because this may damage the images. Also, avoid using staples and paper clips on photos.
9. Protect your images. Use cardboard to reinforce your package before you mail.
10. If you plan to send digital images, follow the guidelines in our Style Guide, posted on

Soldiers Online at www.soldiersmagazine.com



Soldiers

"This Is Our Army" Entry Form

Photographer's full name (and rank if military)

e-mail address

Phone

Street address

City (APO)

State

Zip

Photocopy this entry form and attach a copy to each photo you submit.

Where and when was the photo taken? (Use approximate date if necessary.)

Describe the action in the photo. (Include full name, rank and unit of those pictured.)

Mail to: **Soldiers, ATTN: Photo Editor, 9325 Gunston Rd., Suite S-108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.** Photos must have been taken between Aug. 19, 2002, and Aug. 18, 2003. Color prints and slides are acceptable. Photos that are obviously posed or that show obvious uniform or safety violations will be disqualified. Entries cannot be returned and must be postmarked by Sept. 1, 2003. For more information see **Soldiers Online** at www.soldiersmagazine.com.



SPC Jason B. Baker



BAND PLAYS DIFFERENT TUNE IN IRAQ

Camp Eagle III, Iraq

WITH the entire 101st Airborne Division deployed to Southwest Asia supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, every soldier wearing the “Screaming Eagle” patch played a part in making the mission successful.

The division’s band, a unit known for entertaining fellow soldiers at home in Fort Campbell, Ky., now was protecting them.

“Our mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to provide security and protect the access to our division’s command post,” said CW3 Michael F. Ritter, the band’s commander. “We’re willing to do whatever needs to be done to complete our mission.”

Ritter said the 40-member band also manned security checkpoints, a mission the musicians normally don’t perform during training in Kentucky. And when division commander MG David H. Petraeus and his staff needed tents set up, it was the band members who answered the call. Petraeus complemented the band and gave several soldiers division coins.

Ritter said the band members regularly train on their common soldier tasks and did not deploy to the Middle East unprepared for their current missions.

The musicians plan to be a part of any mission in Iraq, without touching their instruments.

“Any tasks we’re given, we’ll do our best to complete,” said Ritter.

— PFC Thomas Day, 40th Public Affairs Detachment

PFC Joshua Hutcherson



BRONZE STARS FOR VALOR IN COMBAT

An Najaf, Iraq

U.S. Central Command commander GEN Tommy Franks talks with SGTs Lucas Goddard and James Ward of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, before giving them Bronze Stars for valor.

WINNING HEARTS WITH CULTURAL AWARENESS ➤

Camp Champion, Kuwait

CULTURAL awareness was one of the primary weapons the Army wanted to use to win the hearts and minds of Iraq's people.

Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, 82nd Airborne Division soldiers prepared themselves and others for this mission.

"Today was real basic," said SFC Eric Sifford, an assistant platoon leader from Company B, 313th Military Intelligence Battalion. "We taught the soldiers a few greetings and written Arabic words; the things that will save their lives."

Instructors taught basic commands such as "stop" and "drop your weapon." Soldiers also learned to recognize such Arabic words as "danger" and "mines."

"These are the things they're going to run into on the battlefield," said SGT Seth Harvey, an Arabic linguist in Co. B. "We care about the individual soldiers. We wanted to give them basic skills to help them avoid accidents."

Many soldiers agreed with Harvey that the training was important.

"Right after this we're going to practice the terms we learned today," said SGT Bobby Weible of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. "This is going to help us whenever we have to deal with the locals."

SPC Jason B. Baker



Cultural awareness and sensitivity was also an important part of the soldiers' training.

"We wanted to show the culture in a real way," said Harvey. "Soldiers need to connect with it and understand the culture in a personal way."

The instructors hoped that the training would go beyond just teaching the soldiers a few terms, but also help them understand the Middle East while erasing preconceived stereotypes or myths about Arabs.

"We got a lot more than expected," said Sifford. "If the soldiers learn to respect the cultural heritage of this region, it will make a difference in winning over the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people."

— SPC Jason B. Baker, 49th PAD

INDIA HOSTS PKO EXERCISE ➤

New Delhi, India

A TWO-WEEK peacekeeping exercise was held in New Delhi, India, to help build regional security in South Asia and increase interoperability and readiness among the 17 participating nations.

Several members of the 524th Corps Support Battalion represented the U.S. in the United Nations' led exercise. The soldiers also were the principal logistical support element for the more than 4,000 personnel involved in the exercise.

"The training challenged us tremendously," said LTC Dan Georgi of the 524th CSB. "It gave us an opportunity to learn how to support U.N. operations, as well as challenging us to deal with the multitude of logistical requirements found among diverse forces."

"The coordination and interaction among the different armed forces and many humanitarian organizations participating in this exercise was tremendous," he said. — CPT Tynice Roundtree, 524th CSB

MAJ Brian K. Hedrick





Money

TAKING CARE OF YOUR FAMILY

LOVE your family? Then build an estate plan so your relatives get as much of your assets as possible upon your death. Estate planning ensures that your belongings go to your chosen beneficiaries with the lowest deducted taxes and administrative expenses.

The Army's Estate Planning Tool Kit explains such basic concepts as wills, trusts, advance medical directives, organ donations and funeral planning.

Will preparation is often a last-minute effort for deploying soldiers. According to COL George Hancock, chief of the Army Legal Assistance Policy Division, wills should be regarded as one of the most important documents soldiers and their families will ever prepare.

"While it is easy to postpone developing a plan, delay risks that property does not go where intended, fails to save money that could have been saved for survivors, and may frustrate survivors while they straighten out matters after you die," he said.

A properly executed will leaves instructions about intended property distribution. A will is especially important for parents with young children who should name a guardian (and preferably a backup) for their children in case the other natural parent also dies while the children are minors.

History

PRESERVING VETERANS' PASTS

THERE are 19 million war veterans in the United States today — 1,500 of whom die each day. To honor their service and preserve their pasts, Congress created the Veterans History Project. The project calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect and preserve letters, diaries, maps, photos, and audio- and video-taped oral histories.

The experiences of both service members and civilians are welcome, and the project covers World Wars I and II, as well as the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.



To participate in the project log onto the Library of Congress:
www.loc.gov/folklife/vets



Download the kit:
www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal

Career

HELMETS TO HARDHATS



THE construction industry needs 1.6 million new workers in the next five years, according to industry experts. “Helmets to Hardhats” is a Congressionally funded organization that leads service members to America’s best building and construction-industry jobs.

If military experience equips you with the skills to be considered an expert in a construction trade, Helmets to Hardhats can increase your chances of securing a high-level job in the construction industry. The organization also offers no-cost training, during which participants earn a paycheck and benefits.



Get benefit and opportunity information:
www.helmetstohardhats.org



Politics

WRITING ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAKE up your issues with an elected official. A link to the president, vice president, congressmen and senators is located at www.congress.org. The site also allows viewers to post their letters online and offers tips for writing elected officials.

Personals

PEOPLE SEARCH

LOOKING for an old friend? Military.com offers a free buddy finder that enables users to search more than 10 million records. Users can also post a missing buddy message, conduct unit searches and search for unit reunions.



Search for old friend:
www.military.com

Family

OPERATION UPLINK

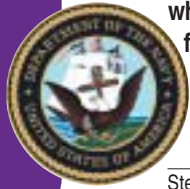
SPONSORED by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Operation Uplink helps keep soldiers and families in touch by providing free phone cards.



To make a donation, log
onto: www.operationuplink.org



Soldiers' & Sailors' Civil Relief Act



AS MORE military members are being deployed to trouble spots around the world or to fight the war on terrorism, there has been an increase in questions about the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act — especially from members of the reserve components and their families.

The SSCRA

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act became a federal law in 1940. Its purpose is to protect active-duty and reserve-component members of the armed services who may be disadvantaged in terms of their economic and property interests due to serving their country. The SSCRA permits service members to suspend or delay certain civil liabilities and civil-court actions.

The law does not exempt service members from legal obligations that result from an act of wrongdoing. The law does not cover criminal charges and citations that include misdemeanors such as reckless driving and driving while intoxicated. Requests to delay court dates for these obligations should be addressed to the court and prosecutors, who may elect to delay proceedings but are not required to do so under the SSCRA.

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Are You Covered?

Members of the Army and Air National Guard, reserve forces and regular military on active federal service and some of their dependents are covered by the SSCRA. Soldiers who wish to read this lengthy law can find it on the Internet by searching for "Title 50, Appendix, United States Code, Sections 501-590."

The law covers a wide range of matters that concern almost every facet of civilian economic and judicial activity, and it requires a booklet to properly address. This article is limited to the five areas usually of the greatest interest to soldiers.

Most often, relief concerns the staying of judicial proceedings, exemption from multiple income taxation, reduction of interest rates, early termination of leases, stopping mortgage foreclosures and extending statutes of limitations.

Stay of Civil Proceedings

Stays of civil proceedings are available when soldiers are sued and are not reasonably available to appear in court or able to achieve proper legal representation due to military service. Soldiers may ask the court to stay proceedings until they return from duty.

Based on my experience, a judge advocate attorney should not sign such a letter on behalf of a soldier, since some judges have denied the stay on the grounds that



the attorney made an appearance on behalf of the soldier, who is therefore represented. I recommend the attorney prepare a letter that the soldier's commander can sign requesting the stay. This avoids the appearance that the soldier has legal representation.

A judge also may grant a stay of enforcement of a legal obligation if the soldier's ability to meet the obligation has been materially affected by entry into military service.

Exemption from Multiple Taxation

Multiple taxation is a common concern as soldiers PCS from state to state. Soldiers remain subject to the tax liabilities of their legal residence (home state). The SSCRA provides immunity from taxes by host states on income earned through military service. However, earned income from off-duty employment and that of the family members is taxable by the host state or the state in which the income is earned.

Some counties, as in Virginia, impose personal-property taxes on automobiles, mobile homes and recreational vehicles. Soldiers are exempt from these

taxes by host states and counties, providing the property is in the soldier's sole name or parked on an exclusive federal-jurisdiction installation. Where soldiers are exempt from personal-property taxes on their motor vehicles, a county may nevertheless require registration and display of a county sticker. Such stickers should be free of charge or cost a nominal fee (cost of the sticker) and not serve as a revenue-producing source.

Reduction of Interest Rates

If debts such as a mortgage or credit-card debt were created prior to a soldier's entry on active duty and if entering military service "materially affects" the soldier's income so that the payments cannot be made, the soldier can request a reduction of up to 6 percent of the interest rate.

The soldier must make a written request, provide a copy of orders and cite the statutory provision. The burden of proof is on the creditor to prove the soldier was not materially affected.

The portion of reduced interest rate is forfeited by the creditor and may not be recouped in the future. Soldiers should not

reduce interest payments prior to giving proper written notification to the creditor. Do not make telephone requests, and keep copies of all correspondence.

Information on mortgage debt is available via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's toll-free number, (888) 297-8685, and on its Web site at www.hud.gov.

Early Termination of Leases



A soldier may seek an early termination of a lease if it was contracted prior to active duty. This includes residential and business leases. Termination of leases entered into after coming on active duty is generally governed by the terms of the lease contract or the landlord-tenant acts of each state. Soldiers must provide written notice to their landlords, with copies of the military orders.

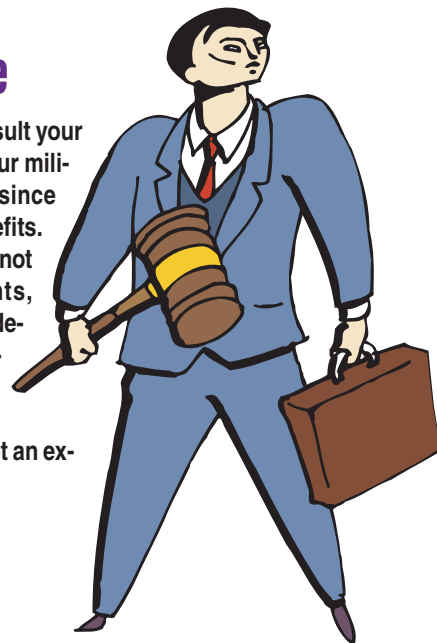
Mortgage Foreclosure Protection

Many service members have purchased homes or used real property to secure loans before they enlisted or came on active duty. Foreclosure protection applies when military service materially affects the service member's ability to make the loan payments. The relief may consist of staying the foreclosure proceedings or providing for a decrease in the payments during the period of service.

Seek Legal Advice

When in doubt, CYA (consult your attorney), preferably from your military staff judge advocate, since their help is part of your benefits. Simply reading the SSCRA is not enough to determine rights, since the law's application depends on court interpretations and decisions.

And never depend on the advice of someone who is not an expert in the law.



A *AMERICANS' patriotism soared during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Yellow ribbons, flags and support placards for our deployed troops decorated homes and businesses from coast to coast. SPC Charles Goff from III Corps and Fort Hood Public Affairs Office highlights how the local community rallied behind its soldiers. 🇺🇸*



▲ Many businesses in Killeen and Copperas Cove, Texas, put up yellow ribbons and signs supporting Fort Hood's deployed 4th Infantry Division soldiers.

► Ayana Ruffin, a Central Texas College student, places a yellow ribbon on one of the trees at the LBJ Plaza in front of the school's library.





▲ SSG George Alexander's son shows support for his Fort Hood-based dad.



▲ A Killeen resident attending the welcome-home ceremony for former POWs Ronald Young and David Williams proudly waves an American flag.

Mail photo submissions for Sharp Shooters to: **Photo Editor, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Digital images should be directed to: alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.



Defusing



Danger

Story and Photos by Beth Reece

EXPLOSIVE ordnance technicians agree there's no such thing as an expert. It's nearly impossible to know all the various types of bombs, grenades, land mines and projectiles that exist, not only in the U.S. military inventory, but also in those of other nations.

"The senior person at this school probably doesn't know even a tenth of the millions of munitions that exist," said SGM Thomas Curtis, top Army NCO at the joint-service, Navy-run School of Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The school's seven-month basic EOD course teaches soldiers how to keep explosives from destroying life and property. Sound simple? Each year about 40 percent of the basic-course students drop out because of academic pressure.

"You've got to be able to think on your own without a step-by-step guide," said PFC Alexander Gray, a recent graduate who sees a diploma from EOD school as a license just to learn the job. "School is an initiation that ensures we can all speak the same language. The real learning starts when we get to our units."

Learning the Trade

Survival in this critical field requires painstaking attention to detail. It's also contingent upon discerning

SPC Deanna Miley, a student at the Navy-run School of Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., is tested on the electric firing mechanism.

the precise dangers of unexploded ordnance, knowing when to disarm an explosive and when to blow it up, and knowing what tools to use in the process.

Students are warned not to merely memorize what they learn. Instead, they must think comprehensively and know how to compare the physical features of ordnance they can't identify with information published in trade manuals.

In demolition, students learn to destroy ordnance non-electrically with a fuse, or electrically by attaching a wire and blasting cap that's connected to a remote trigger. While the loud explosions and smoke are always impressive, EOD soldiers say, it's not their leading method of disarmament.

"There's a misconception that we just chuck explosives on top and tear it away. But more often than not, we'll make an explosive safe on the spot because of other safety concerns, then move it someplace where we can eliminate it so it'll never bother anyone again," said instructor SFC Thomas Hewitt.

Rendering ordnance safe is a meticulous, step-by-step process that requires selective attention. One wrong move — like forgetting to use protective equipment or placing remote

power tools one-eighth of an inch off the mark — can result in severe injury, death or the destruction of vital equipment.

"Personal safety is more important than anything else," said instructor SFC Tamiko Bogad.

But safety is never a guarantee in EOD.

"Some procedures are just less dangerous than others," Curtis said. "Ordnance is designed to go off. So just walking up on it is extremely dangerous, and there could be hundreds or thousands of devices to deal with, not just one."

Students must pass more than 40

tests at EOD school, many of them hands-on, and often with munitions they haven't seen in training.

"They've got to get used to applying basic principles and comparing information to determine what they're working with," Curtis said. "If soldiers get nervous here, where the ordnance is just plastic or concrete, imagine how they'll be a week after graduation when they're working on real ordnance."

Those who haven't failed a test in the first few months often do so in the 30-day air-ordnance phase, which covers aircraft explosive hazards, guided missiles, bombs and bomb fuses, dispensers and payloads



EOD instructor Mark Hawkins (right) helps student PFC Alexander Gray fine-tune his operational skills with the Andros robot.



— some of the most sophisticated equipment EOD techs ever work with.

“You can remember 99 percent of the information in air ordnance but forget one percent and fail the test,” said recent graduate CPT Jim Wood.

Pilots needing to make an emergency landing with a fully loaded aircraft must first eject ordnance off the plane. EOD techs go

after the jettisoned ordnance and render it safe, and also deal with potential explosive hazards remaining on the aircraft. Even the pilot’s seat is explosive, because it contains a rocket motor to eject the seat and pilot in an emergency.

EOD techs face ever-present dangers of ground ordnance in such places as Iraq and Bosnia. The perils include projectiles, grenades, land mines, rockets and booby traps.

The key to disarming ground ordnance is being able to differentiate among the various types, and keeping up on developing technology. While some land mines are designed simply to immobilize any object that passes, for example, others are programmed to pick specific targets.

EOD techs proved their proficiency during Operation Desert Storm, when they eliminated hazards posed by thousands of land mines, grenades, rockets and guided missiles, as well by discarded small-arms ammunition.

“You can go out into the desert one day and not see a single mine, but come back the next day after a

sandstorm and see mines everywhere,” said instructor SSG Dallas Tatum.

Add to the danger the complications posed by a nearby fuel tank, command post or classified information, and the implications of an explosion multiply.

The restricted nature of homemade bombs and terrorist devices places them last in the EOD school curriculum. School officials want to be sure a person is likely to graduate before introducing them to improvised explosives.

“What students learn here is probably just enough to make them scary, but history shows that no one in EOD has ever used the information against the United States,” Curtis said.

The devastating potential of improvised explosive devices was obvious after the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in



▲ CPT John Panchalk demonstrates the Mk. 26 ferrous ordnance locator, which can detect ordnance up to six meters below ground.

▶ SGT Keith Hopper inserts the safety pins into different types of aircraft ordnance ejector racks.



Oklahoma City, Okla. But until the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks almost two years ago, EOD was still a somewhat obscure field, Curtis said.

"I think everybody is going to know who we are from now on. Today, almost every installation has EOD techs on its force-protection teams."

Robotics add safety to the improvised explosive dimension by allowing techs to handle explosives remotely using joysticks that control robots from a distance. One robot carries a \$300,000 price tag.

Something New Everyday

Change is a certainty in EOD, where soldiers do their jobs in both peace and war. One day it's a bomb threat, the next it's a plane crash. "Every day it's something different,



PFC Christopher Chadwell, another student at the Eglin AFB EOD school, carefully traces the outline of a practice land mine before attempting to "safe" it.



PFC Geoffrey Goings displays the elements that make up many improvised explosive devices — TNT and smokeless powder.

from going out to safe a grenade range to teaching a bomb-threat class at a local abortion clinic," Curtis said.

Civilian bomb squads specialize primarily in homemade bombs, so civilian communities rely on the Army's technical savvy for all other explosives. Without the Army's aid, Curtis believes there'd be many more civilian and military casualties.

The Army has fewer than 40 EOD companies, with 22 soldiers authorized for each. EOD techs have been in Kuwait since Operation Desert Storm. Three EOD units are currently in Bosnia and four are in Afghanistan.

In Iraq, EOD techs provided safety to front-line troops by checking out weapons and munitions caches, bunkers, and even oil wells, to ensure they weren't booby-trapped.

Wherever the president of the United States and first lady go, EOD techs go first. "We search their hotels and motorcades, crawl down into sewer systems and elevators, jump on their beds and flush their toilets to make sure there's nothing inside," Tatum said.

Most EOD techs show loyalty to their field by choosing long-term

careers over brief enlistments. Many are converts from other occupational specialties. Rangers, tankers and artillerymen are lured by watching EOD techs in action, Curtis said.

"When something those other soldiers fire doesn't go off, they call us for help," he said. "Our job is a really big responsibility and other soldiers


see that. They're impressed watching a young staff sergeant close the range so he can safe the area."

SGT Wesley Kuhns was attracted to the constancy of EOD's mission.

"I spent five years in the infantry, where we were always training for war. We

were always preparing, but I wanted a job that I could actually do everyday," he said.

Explicit trust in peers may be another draw for prospective EOD techs, who always work in pairs. One tech does the hands-on work, the other zeroes in on safety.

"You can count on the quality of people to your left and right to be excellent, and you can count on them to know what they're doing," Curtis said. "Your life depends on it." 

"You can remember 99 percent of the information in air ordnance but forget one percent and fail the test."

EOD in Iraq

Story and Photos by SPC Joshua Hutcheson



CPT Bryan Sopko, commander of the 725th EOD Co., prepares to destroy an Iraqi arms cache using C-4 plastic explosive.



EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

EXplosive ordnance disposal teams will be busy in the days ahead, ridding Iraq of devices such as grenades, rockets, missiles and mortar rounds that remain buried in fields or laying in streets and front yards.

“My guys take risks in order to minimize the risks to others,” said CPT Bryan Sopko, commander of the 725th EOD Company from Fort Drum, N.Y. His unit supported the 101st Airborne Division during its advance through Iraq.

One of the first sites they cleared was at an agricultural school in An Najaf, where the division’s 1st Brigade had set up its tactical operations center.


A weapons cache found in the school and weapons and ammunition found at other sites throughout the city were taken to a pit and destroyed. But completing the roundup of explosives hadn’t been simple: Unexploded ordnance was spread over a large area; some was found in the streets and some was found intact within yards of where soldiers worked and lived.

The 1st Bde. soldiers also told the EOD teams they were guarding an Iraqi truck full of rockets that were marked with symbols that might indicate chemical weapons. Another report hinted that a nearby building contained mortar shells that had tested positive for mustard gas.

In another part of the city, a street was littered with KB-1 submunitions — golf ball-sized explosives that had been scattered when munitions-carrying trucks had been destroyed. The street had been roped off, but Iraqi civilians removed the ropes and were driving or walking among the explosives.

Sopko dispatched teams to each site to evaluate the areas and to remove or destroy the munitions they encountered.

While in theater, the 725th will continue to provide direct mission support to the 101st and work to make Iraq a safer place, Sopko said.

Still early into their mission, they had already destroyed 8,739 projectiles, 14 U.S.-made submunitions, 187 Russian-made submunitions, 54 rockets, 2,605 fuses and 16,800 rifles and other small arms. 

SPC Joshua Hutcheson is a member of the 101st Airborne Division public affairs section.

"My guys take risks in order to minimize the risks to others," said CPT Bryan Sopko, commander of the 725th EOD Company from Fort Drum, N.Y.

- ▶ Soldiers of the 725th EOD Co. examine a cache of unexploded Iraqi ordnance found at a school in An Najaf.
- ▶ PFC Robert Wiltshire walks along a section of road in An Najaf littered with golf ball-sized KB-1 submunitions scattered when the Iraqi trucks carrying them were destroyed.



A cache of rocket-propelled grenades and missiles from Iraqi tanks is destroyed by soldiers of the 725th EOD Co.



The EOD mission into “Ammo Alley” is keeping ordnance out of the hands of those wishing to destabilize the local governments in Afghanistan.

EOD in Afghanistan

Story by CPL Keith A. Kluwe

AN explosive ordnance disposal mission in Afghanistan ended April 15 when technicians destroyed two caches of ordnance in what has come to be called “Ammo Alley.”

The mission was delayed more than a year, after three EOD technicians and a special forces soldier were killed in an April 15, 2002, explosion at the same site, 35 kilometers northwest of Kandahar Air Field.

“One of my good friends — SGT Jamie Mulligans — was killed there last year,” said SSG Baylin Oswalt, a team leader with the 731st Ordnance Company from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. “This mission brought closure, being able to go out to where he was killed and destroy that cache.”

Others who finished the mission recalled their fallen comrades.


“Everyone felt their loss. We’re a very tight-knit community, so when someone dies in the line of duty, their

name doesn’t just go on a memorial. We all remember them, because we knew them from school or through friends,” said team leader SSG Jeffrey Mclean of the 754th Ord. Co. at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

EOD teams from the 731st, 754th and 705th Ord. companies rigged the two piles of ordnance with C-4 explosives that destroyed the caches of Chinese-made fin-stabilized rockets similar to those used in attacks against U.S. bases in Afghanistan.

The mission into “Ammo Alley” has kept weapons and ordnance out of the hands of people wishing to destabilize the national and provincial governments in Afghanistan, or cause harm to U.S. forces, officials said.

“But Ammo Alley is still a big concern. There is still a lot of ammunition and ordnance out there that can be used by anyone who wants to do harm to coalition forces,” Mclean said.

There are still more than 20 known munitions cache sites in the valley. 

CPL Keith A. Kluwe is assigned to the CTF-82 Public Affairs Office.

“There is still a lot of ammunition and ordnance out there that can be used by anyone who wants to do harm to coalition forces.”

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL



TRADOC Turns

Story by Jim Caldwell

“I think you should train a man for the job he is going to perform, and then you can educate him so that the intellectual and moral environment in which he pursues his particular job will be enhanced.”

— From “Changing an Army” by GEN William E. DePuy,
first commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command



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WHO'S responsible for excellence in training? Who's responsible for the man-machine interface to make sure units know what they're doing and how they're trained on their equipment? In fact, who's responsible for the organization of the Army the way it is now?" asks Jim Stensvaag, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command historian.

"It's all TRADOC."

Since its creation 30 years ago this month, TRADOC has been leading the Army into the future through training, developing officer and noncommissioned officer leaders, and creating materiel and doctrine that tells commanders and soldiers how the Army will fight.

"GEN DePuy and other leaders were already thinking about the post-Vietnam Army when TRADOC was activated in 1973," Stensvaag said.

"Before TRADOC, if new doctrine was written or a new piece of equipment came into the Army, there was no guarantee soldiers would be trained to reflect the changes," Stensvaag said. "GEN DePuy's focus was on

Jim Caldwell works for TRADOC Public Affairs at Fort Monroe, Va.



▲ Job performance begins with the fundamentals, instilled in basic training and learned in TRADOC classrooms.

▲ TRADOC is responsible for the man-machine interface that ensures unit members know what they're doing and are properly equipped.

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command





making sure that each soldier was trained, knowing what he was supposed to do and how to use his equipment to do that job.”

DePuy led the study that resulted in the creation of TRADOC and Forces Command. He then became the first TRADOC commanding general.

TRADOC has maintained DePuy’s attention to training soldiers and leaders. The command is now changing its organizations and processes to lead the Army through Transformation as the agent for design of the objective force. Its leaders believe that as the Army transforms, TRADOC must be capable of responding correctly and quickly.

One of these leaders is Mike Starry, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine, Concepts and Strategy (DCS/DCS), who has seen how TRADOC has helped change the Army over a career spanning from 1971 through 1998.

✦ Training ensures that each soldier knows what he is doing, can use his equipment correctly and efficiently, and has confidence in his abilities.

✦ At 1,500 feet in the air, parachute rigger students await the command to jump using chutes they packed themselves.





Christie Vanover

Like all soldiers, health-care specialists train as a team and rely on the individual skills of each member.

Part of Starry's job is to help produce the "How-to-Fight" doctrine for the objective force. He helped create the "Army After Next" wargame in 1996 to try to see what the future might hold. That event became the "Army Transformation Wargame" involving the objective force, and this year it evolved into "Unified Quest 03," a TRADOC-Joint Forces Command collaboration, the first in a series of wargames to explore ways to carry out joint operations more smoothly and efficiently.

Based on experiences during his Army career and at TRADOC, Starry thinks that sound doctrine, quality individual training and excellent leader development, coupled with the best in equipment, led to success in recent military operations.

"I think the kind of operation we saw in Desert Storm, what we saw in Afghanistan and in Iraq in 2003, are logical extensions of a conceptual foundation laid down by TRADOC following the Vietnam War experience," he said. "It's a foundation focused on training quality soldiers

Together, training and doctrine prepare the Army for today's worldwide operations while anticipating future mission requirements.

and leaders for today's operations while at the same time anticipating the requirements of the future battle-space and leading the Army into the future."


"I think the quality of training the Army has gotten from TRADOC enabled them to respond in Operation Iraqi Freedom in such a way that they could go almost without pause," Stensvaag said.

"All of the issues we've struggled with over the last decade have matured, and some are becoming a reality in



An adaptable force built on team spirit and quality leadership begins with individual soldiers who are trained to accept challenges and expect success.

new doctrine, training, organizations and equipment," Starry added.

Both men believe that TRADOC, for as long as there is a U.S. Army, will continue facing the challenge of making sure the Army is ready for any mission. 



A Show of **Support**

"THAT'S a picture of my daddy," said 5-year-old Chantel Lillie, as she pointed toward bed sheets printed with photos, signatures and e-mails. The sheets are simple reminders to 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers in Southwest Asia that they are truly missed.

Two simple bed sheets became banners dedicated to deployed soldiers of the 82nd's 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, and 307th Engineer Battalion, both based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The banners are covered with written messages, copies of e-mails, and photos from wives, families and friends expressing their concerns and support for unit members participating in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"Come home safe."

"We miss you."

"We love you."

"We're so proud of you."



Brandi Hill, whose husband, PFC Jimmie Hill, is in Afghanistan, suggested making the banners after attending a Family Readiness Group meeting. Then she and her neighbors Tiffany Lillie and Natalie Holt designed banners of their own as a show of support for their spouses.

"We wanted to show our husbands we support what they do," said Hill. She, Lillie and Holt then contacted the wives and families of other unit members and began working on the banners.

"A lot of the wives moved back home when their husbands deployed," said Hill. "Since they couldn't be here to sign the banners, we ironed on the e-mail print-outs and photos they sent."

The banners were soon hanging in Afghanistan and Iraq as daily reminders of what the soldiers are fighting for, and of the support given by families back home.

"We hope this brings a smile to their faces," said Holt, whose husband, SGT Jimmie Holt, is also in Iraq. "We just want them to know we're always thinking about them." 🇺🇸

PFC Michael J. Carden is assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office at Fort Bragg.



*E*cybermission

Become an eCybermission Volunteer

The Army is sponsoring eCybermission again in the coming school year and is seeking volunteers to help make the program a success.

Q What is eCybermission?

A eCybermission is a scholastic competition that encourages middle-school students of all intellectual levels to develop an interest in science, math and technology.

In future years the competition will be expanded to include high school students.

Q How does it work?

A Students tackle problems that interest them or that they see in their communities. They form their own teams of three or four to conduct research and experiments on their problems, and then submit their "mission folders" online.

You Can Help to Make Ecybermission a Success

The success of the program depends on members of the Army's civilian and military workforce, who serve as "Ambassadors" and "CyberGuides."

-  **Ambassadors** make promotional visits to local schools and youth groups to encourage participation in eCybermission.
-  **CyberGuides** provide online advice to students as they complete their projects.

Through the use of the Internet, Army leaders see eCybermission becoming a premier science competition and a way for the Army to give back to America's communities.

Want more information?



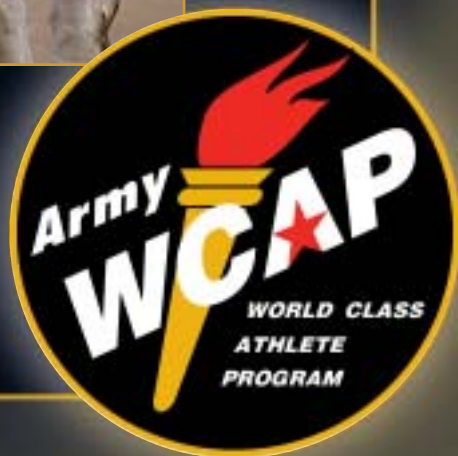
For a description of your role as an eCybermission volunteer, and to register online, visit www.ecybermission.com.

Modern Pentathlon

1LT ANITA ALLEN



1LT Anita Allen graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2002 as a Medical Service Corps officer. She began her athletic career as a long-distance runner in 1996. Her accomplishments include a fifth-place finish in the 2002 Modern Pentathlon World Cup #1. She also placed fifth in the 2002 U.S. Modern Pentathlon #2, and sixth in the U.S. Modern Pentathlon #1. In 2001, she came in fifth at the U.S. National Championships and fourth at the U.S. Modern Pentathlon event.



WCAP is one of 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center.